

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of making a package comprising a mineral wool product substantially air-tightly enclosed by a foil, comprising

bringing about a dimensional reduction of said mineral wool product by mechanically compressing said mineral wool product in a first direction using mechanical compressing means and

evacuating said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil,

said evacuation being performed while essentially maintaining said dimensional reduction,

and said mechanical compression provided by said compressing means being released while performing said evacuation.

2. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said evacuation of said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil is selected to maintain, or essentially maintain, said dimensional reduction.

3-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said mineral wool product has substantially parallel opposed surfaces defining before said compression a dimension (T) of said mineral wool product, said mechanical compressing means applying a uniform or essentially uniform pressure against said opposed surfaces.

7. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 6, wherein the pressure within said package comprising said mineral wool product enclosed by said foil is balanced with the pressure on said surfaces required to obtain said dimensional reduction (T-t).

8. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 7, wherein said mechanical compressing means includes a flat surface press applied flatly against at least one of said opposed surfaces and displaced to provide said dimensional reduction (T-t).

9. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, wherein the dimensional reduction is at most 70%.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for making a package comprising a mineral wool product substantially air-tightly enclosed by a foil, comprising

mechanical compressing means adapted for receiving said mineral wool product and for compressing said mineral wool product in a first direction to bring about a dimensional reduction thereof,

wrapping means for enclosing said mineral wool product with a web of a substantially air-tight foil,

an evacuating station arranged downstream of said compressing means, said evacuating station including evacuating means for evacuating air from said mineral wool product compressed by said compressing means and enclosed by said foil,

~~said evacuating station including a plurality of opposed surfaces, at least a portion of which are arranged between said compression means and said evacuation means, the opposed surfaces~~ for maintaining said dimensional reduction during transfer of said mineral wool product from said compressing means to said evacuating means of

~~said mineral wool product compressed by the compressing means and enclosed by the foil,~~

said opposed surfaces maintaining said dimensional reduction during said evacuation by said evacuating means.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said wrapping means is operable to wrap said foil around said mineral wool product before activation of said mechanical compressing means for bringing about said dimensional reduction, said wrapping means comprising sealing means operable to seal said foil after said wrapping, said evacuating means being operable to evacuate said mineral wool product enclosed by said sealed foil.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 11, including conveyor means for conveying said mineral wool product along a path, said wrapping means including a supply of said web and receiving means for receiving an end of said web, said web being extendable between said supply and said receiving means across said path to receive said mineral wool product in a receiving area, said compressing means being arranged downstream of said receiving area.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said wrapping means is operable to wrap said web around said mineral wool product after activation of said mechanical compressing means for bringing about said dimensional reduction, said wrapping means comprising sealing means operable to seal said foil after said wrapping, said evacuating means being operable to evacuate said mineral wool product enclosed by said sealed foil.

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, including conveyor means for conveying said mineral wool product along a path, said wrapping means including a supply of said web and receiving means for receiving an end of said web, said web being extendable between said supply and said receiving means across said path to receive said mineral wool product in a receiving area, said compressing means being arranged upstream of said receiving area.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said compressing means includes a flat surface displaceable press.

17. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said wrapping means is operable to wrap said web around said mineral wool product during activation of said mechanical compressing means to bring about said dimensional reduction, said wrapping means comprising sealing means operable to seal said foil after said wrapping, said evacuating means being operable to evacuate said mineral wool product enclosed by said sealed foil.

18. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said mechanical compressing includes first and second opposed conveyor means for conveying said mineral wool product along a path and defining therebetween a passage of decreasing width for obtaining said dimensional reduction, said wrapping means including a supply of said web and receiving means for receiving an end of said web, said receiving means for receiving an end of said web, said web being extendable between said supply and said receiving means across said path to receive said mineral

wool product in a receiving area, said compressing means being arranged downstream of said receiving area.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 9, wherein the dimensional reduction is no more than 60%.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of making a package comprising a mineral wool product substantially air-tightly enclosed by a foil comprising

bringing about a dimensional reduction of said mineral wool product by mechanically compressing said mineral wool product in a first direction using mechanical compressing means and

evacuating said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil,

said evacuation being performed while essentially maintaining said dimensional reduction,

and said mechanical compression provided by said compressing means being released while performing said evacuation,

wherein said mineral wool product is enclosed by said foil after said mechanical compression, said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil being then evacuated.

21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 20, wherein said evacuation of said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil is selected to maintain, or essentially maintain, said dimensional reduction.

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 20 or 21, wherein said mineral wool product has substantially parallel opposed surfaces defining before said

compression a dimension (T) of said mineral wool product, said mechanical compressing means applying a uniform or essentially uniform pressure against said opposed surfaces.

23. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 22, wherein the pressure within said package comprising said mineral wool product enclosed by said foil is balanced with the pressure on said surfaces required to obtain said dimensional reduction (T-t).

24. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 23, wherein said mechanical compressing means includes a flat surface press applied flatly against at least one of said opposed surfaces and displaced to provide said dimensional reduction (T-t).

25. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 24, wherein the dimensional reduction is at most 70%.

26. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 25, wherein the dimensional reduction is no more than 60%.

27. (Withdrawn) A method of making a package comprising a mineral wool product substantially air-tightly enclosed by a foil, comprising

bringing about a dimensional reduction of said mineral wool product by mechanically compressing said mineral wool product in a first direction using mechanical compressing means and

evacuating said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil,

said evacuation being performed while essentially maintaining said dimensional reduction,

and said mechanical compression provided by said compressing means being released while performing said evacuation,

wherein said mineral wool product is enclosed by said foil before said mechanical compression, said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil being then evacuated.

28. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 27, wherein said evacuation of said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil is selected to maintain, or essentially maintain, said dimensional reduction.

29. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein said mineral wool product has substantially parallel opposed surfaces defining before said compression a dimension (T) of said mineral wool product, said mechanical compressing means applying a uniform or essentially uniform pressure against said opposed surfaces.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 29, wherein the pressure within said package comprising said mineral wool product enclosed by said foil is balanced with the pressure on said surfaces required to obtain said dimensional reduction (T-t).

31. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 30, wherein said mechanical compressing means includes a flat surface press applied flatly against at least one of said opposed surfaces and displaced to provide said dimensional reduction (T-t).

32. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 31, wherein the dimensional reduction is at most 70%.

33. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 32, wherein the dimensional reduction is no more than 60%.

34. (Withdrawn) A method of making a package comprising a mineral wool product substantially air-tightly enclosed by a foil, comprising

bringing about a dimensional reduction of said mineral wool product by mechanically compressing said mineral wool product in a first direction using mechanical compressing means and

evacuating said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product (1) enclosed by said foil,

said evacuation being performed while essentially maintaining said dimensional reduction,

and said mechanical compression provided by said compressing means being released while performing said evacuation,

wherein said mineral wool product is enclosed by said foil during said mechanical compression, said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil being then evacuated.

35. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 34, wherein said evacuation of said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil is selected to maintain, or essentially maintain, said dimensional reduction.

36. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 34 or 35, wherein said mineral wool product has substantially parallel opposed surfaces defining before said compression a dimension (T) of said mineral wool product, said mechanical

compressing means applying a uniform or essentially uniform pressure against said opposed surfaces.

37. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 36, wherein the pressure within said package comprising said mineral wool product enclosed by said foil is balanced with the pressure on said surfaces required to obtain said dimensional reduction (T-t).

38. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 37 wherein said mechanical compressing means includes a flat surface press applied flatly against at least one of said opposed surfaces and displaced to provide said dimensional reduction (T-t).

39. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 38, wherein the dimensional reduction is no more than 70%.

40. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 39, wherein the dimensional reduction is no more than 60%.